

## What Do Clinicians Say about the TAC?

*"I think it has been an eye opening experience. I'm an adoptive mother and worked with adoptive parents professionally and you start to think you know everything, and then you take this class and realize how little you know because new theories and therapists are being developed all the time."*

*"Surprisingly to myself, probably the biggest take-away I've had overall from the course thus far is related to self-awareness and my own personal views on adoption and each of the members of the adoption constellation (I've also learned this new wonderful phrase of "constellation" and make it a point to use it whenever possible ). I think I have a brand new, fresh level of empathy and perspective as I work with many of the adoptive parents I have on my caseload now."*

*"It has humbled me to even be in this course – even though I have done this work for many years and have personal experience in adoption! It has already challenged my entrenched views....but also validated much of what I either knew/suspected to be true. I am also reminded that my personal journey and the journey of any one client may not be the same for others."*

## Where the TAC is Currently Being Implemented

- Catawba County Department of Social Services, Hickory, North Carolina
- Lilliput Children's Services, Sacramento, California
- Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, University of Minnesota
- Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE)
- Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska
- The Villages of Indiana
- Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition of St. Louis, Missouri
- Montgomery County Department of Job & Family Services and ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County, Ohio
- University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, Connecticut

### NEXT Training in CHARLOTTE, NC:

Where: Plaza Presbyterian Church

2304 The Plaza Charlotte, NC 28205

Cost: \$1,250 per participant for 72 hours of training

When: 9:00-4:30 p.m. on the following dates:

September 5, 2014

October 17, 2014

September 12, 2014

October 24, 2014

September 19, 2014

November 7, 2014

September 26, 2014

November 21, 2014

October 3, 2014

December 5, 2014

October 10, 2014

The training will be hosted by Adoption Support Alliance, an organization whose mission is to provide adoptive families with training, support and counseling and foster thriving, forever families.



**For more information contact  
Erin Nasmyth at 704-249-4565 or  
erin@adoptionsupportalliance.org**

Trainers: Janine Szymanski, LPA and Chrissy Triplett, LCSW became certified TAC trainers in 2010 and have trained four cohorts in the TAC model. Dr. Jim Wachsmuth, LPC will be joining the training team in Fall 2014.



**The TAC . . . A National  
Movement To Create an  
Adoption Competent Mental  
Health Workforce**

The TAC was developed by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) and is being implemented with the generous support of major national child welfare foundations in the United States. It is currently being implemented in eight states with more states coming on board in 2014. Rigorous research is documenting its effectiveness in providing clinicians with the critical competencies they need to provide quality mental health services to those whose lives have been touched by adoption.





### What is the TAC?

The TAC is a 72 hour, 12-session competency-based training program followed by a 6-month case consultation program for licensed mental health clinicians who provide pre- and post-adoption services to prospective adoptive parents, birth parents, adopted persons, and adoptive and kinship families.

Eleven modules are classroom-based; one module is completed at-home; and the final class session provides participants with an opportunity to fully integrate learning.

Each module combines information sharing, written handouts and resources, and experiential learning, including case studies, role plays, and introspective work. Six sessions of case consultation (held once monthly) follow the classroom training.

Graduates of the TAC receive a certificate of completion and national recognition through posting on the Center for Adoption Support and Education's website.

### What does the research say about the TAC?

- Program completers have superior performance on pre-/post-tests compared with a contrast group of non-TAC-trained clinicians
- Trainees have substantially improved performance on all core adoption competencies
- TAC learning is transferred to practice across six domains of clinical practice
- There are high levels of training delivery fidelity, quality and relevance

*At the conclusion of the training, 88% of students report either having substantial understanding of the core competencies or having mastered the core competencies with the ability to explain to others.*

#### Learn even more about at the TAC at:

<http://adoptionsupport.org/index.php/the-tac-training-for-adoption-competency/>

### Who has funded the TAC?



The Annie E. Casey Foundation

*The Jockey Being Family Foundation*

The Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation



DAVE THOMAS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR ADOPTION

### The TAC Modules

Module #1. Adoption History, Law and Process

Module #2. Introduction to Adoption Competent Mental Health Practice

Module #3. Clinical Issues in Planning, Preparing for and Supporting Adoption

Module #4. Clinical Issues in Providing Therapeutic Services: Grief, Loss and Separation

Module #5. Trauma and Brain Neurobiology

Module #6. Attachment

Module #7. Adopted Adolescents and Identity Development

Module #8. Clinical Issues in Working with Birth and Adoptive Families

Module #9. Clinical Work with Adoptive Families: Managing Challenging Behaviors

Module #10. Openness in Adoption

Module #11. Race and Ethnicity in Adoption

Module #12. Integrating Adoption Competencies: Knowledge, Skills and Values

### What are the special features of the TAC?

Exclusively designed for mental

In-depth clinical focus

Competency-based

Very intensive: 72 hours classroom training and 6 month case consultation component

Manualized to ensure fidelity

Rigorous evaluation